

Appendix A - DIRECTORATE COMMENTARY

Social Care Health and Housing

1. The provisional outturn is below gross budget by £4.7M and the net position is below budget by £3.8M. The gross spend mainly relates to the following projects, Additional Gypsy and Traveller sites, NHS Campus Closure and Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme projects.

Of the net provisional outturn of £3.8M below budget, it is proposed to defer £0.092M in respect of the Empty Homes programme and £0.031M in respect of Renewal Assistance. Grant Income and contributions received for NHS Campus Closure, Adult Social Care ICT Projects and Social Care Single Capital Pot are also proposed to be deferred to 2016/17. The remaining £1.1M is an underspend.

The tables below highlights the areas of spend :

SCHH Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross Budget	Gross Provisional Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Timberlands and Chiltern View Gypsy and Traveller Sites	0	1	1	0	1
Older Peoples Homes	0	124	124	0	124
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	1,557	350	(1,207)	1,207	(0)
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	2,030	0	(2,030)	1,906	(124)
Empty Homes	300	262	(38)	92	54
Renewal Assistance	150	154	4	31	35
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	2,750	2,132	(618)	0	(618)
NHS Campus Closure	698	60	(638)	638	0
Social Care Single Capital Pot	0	15	15	0	15
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	289	9	(280)	280	(0)
Total	7,774	3,107	(4,667)	4,154	(513)
% of Budget		40.0%			

SCHH Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Provisional			Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	Net Budget	Outturn	Variance		
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Timberlands and Chiltern View Gypsy and Traveller Sites	0	1	1	0	1
Older Peoples Homes	0	124	124	0	124
Additional Gypsy and Traveller Sites	582	237	(345)	0	(345)
Review of Accommodation/Day Support, "New Approaches to Outcome"	0	0	0	(124)	(124)
Empty Homes	300	208	(92)	92	0
Renewal Assistance	100	69	(31)	31	(0)
Disabled Facilities Grants Scheme	1,962	1,175	(787)	0	(787)
NHS Campus Closure	0	(143)	(143)	143	0
Social Care Single Capital Pot	0	(2,422)	(2,422)	2,422	(0)
Adult Social Care ICT Projects	0	(68)	(68)	68	(0)
Total	2,944	(819)	(3,763)	2,632	(1,131)
% of Budget			-27.8%		

2. **The Review of Accommodation/Day Support project**

This project relates to the Older People's Care Homes Re-provision project, and expenditure relates to capital maintenance requirements of the seven older people's homes which transferred back to the Authority in August 2014. Proposals are currently being developed and a paper on the future of day care is due to go to the June 2016 Executive.

Additional Gypsy & Traveller Sites

3. Pre-application planning advice has been received for two new Gypsy and Traveller sites at Dunton (12 pitches) and Potton (11 Pitches). A full planning application for both sites is scheduled to be made in 2016. It was originally anticipated that work on the additional 11 pitches at Potton would commence in this financial year, but that will not occur so it is proposed that the net underspend of £0.345M is deferred to 2016/17. A full planning application has been submitted for a new Gypsy and Traveller site at Biggleswade South (12 pitches).

In addition to the above, works have been undertaken to create two new pitches on the existing Potton Gypsy Traveller Site, which do not require planning permission. Net expenditure for the year, after funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) of £0.113M, for these pitches was £0.237M. Overall there is a net underspend of £0.345M.

4. **Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)**

The grants provided to residents through the DFG programme assist some of the poorer and most vulnerable members of the community. Without these grants in many cases the properties involved would be unsuitable for the needs of the occupiers who may then be unable to remain in their own homes. This also reduces pressure on health service resources and residential care, as

without these improvements more residents would require emergency or longer term care solutions. In 2015/16 185 DFG cases were completed which resulted in 372 major adaptations.

5.

Type of adaptation	Total 14/15	CBC tenants	Others	Total 15/16
Level access shower/wet room	122	11	104	115
Straight stair lift	37	4	25	29
Curved stair lift	24		28	28
Toilet alterations	39	6	42	48
Access ramps	27	3	24	27
Dropped kerb and hard standing	3		7	7
Wheelchair/step lift	4	1	2	3
Through floor lift	4		2	2
Major extension	14	1	11	12
Kitchen alterations	5	2	9	11
Access alterations (doors etc.)	50	3	51	54
Heating improvements	1		3	3
Garage conversions/minor additions	3	1	4	5
Safety repairs/improvements	4	1	4	5
Other	21	3	20	23
Total	358	36	336	372

6. The **NHS Campus Closure programme** has one potential remaining project for Central Bedfordshire. This is subject to the release of capital receipts by Propco (NHS). No business case exists as yet for this scheme which will be 100% externally funded. Central Bedfordshire, as the lead authority for the capital grant, has also been responsible for distributing the funds for two other local authority's schemes. The final Bedford Borough scheme is Orchard House which completed in April 2015.

7. The Adult Social Care IT project comprises a number of schemes. The next phase of developments of the Social Care system – AIS – has been agreed and implementation details are under discussion with the software provider.

Children's Services

8. Children's Services annual capital expenditure budget for 2015/16 is £31.6M. The income budget is £28.6M, a net expenditure budget of £3.0M.

9. The provisional outturn position for 2015/16 is £29.0M, £2.6M below the approved 2015/16 Children's Services gross capital budget, mainly due to the annual review of projects within the New School Places programme reducing spend by £5.2M. This is offset by additional spend on projects fully funded by grant income; Local Public Service Agreement Grant (LPSA) & Local Area Agreement Grant (LAA) £200K, Special School provisions £650K, School Capital Maintenance programme £612K and Schools Devolved Formula Capital £1.1M. The Council contribution of £2.1M to the New School Places

programme is no longer required for 2015/16. All but two projects within Children's Services, Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation, are funded wholly by grant receipts that have no expenditure deadline.

The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Children's Services Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross				Over / (Under) spend £k
	Gross Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	
	£k	£k	£k	£k	
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	460	1,595	1,135	0	1,135
New School Places	28,451	23,210	(5,241)	0	(5,241)
Temporary Accommodation	400	400	0	0	0
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,100	2,712	612	0	612
Schools Access Initiative	200	200	0	0	0
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	200	200	0	200
2 year old entitlement grant	0	31	31	0	31
Special School Provision	0	650	650	0	650
Total	31,611	28,999	(2,612)	0	(2,612)
% of Budget	91.7%				

Children's Services Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net				Over / (Under) spend £k
	Net Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	
	£k	£k	£k	£k	
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	0	1	1	0	1
New School Places	2,410	300	(2,110)	0	(2,110)
Temporary Accommodation	400	400	0	0	0
Schools Access Initiative	200	200	0	0	0
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	14	14	0	14
Total	3,010	915	(2,095)	0	(2,095)
% of Budget	30.4%				

10. This programme provides the capital investment to deliver new school places required by population growth in areas of limited surplus capacity within our schools. The Council's School Organisation Plan is the evidence base that supports the commissioning of these new school places over a rolling five year period. The programme is funded by a combination of sources including Department for Education basic need grant, developer contributions and Council borrowings and capital receipts.
11. In February 2015 the Council approved the programme 2015/16 to 2018/19 with gross expenditure of £28.2M (£2.1M net) in 2015/16, £25.4M (£7.3M net) in 2016/17, £35.3M (18.3M net) in 2017/18 and £18.0M (£11.8M net) in 2018/19.
12. In February 2015 the DfE announced the Basic Need allocation for 2017/18 of £21.0M which had previously been anticipated to be at levels similar to 2015/16 (£6.2M). This reduced the Council's forecast deficit/net cost of the approved programme to in 2017/18 to £3.5M.
13. Total Basic Need grant provided to our immediate Local Authority neighbours for the period 2011-18 is £44.0M for Luton BC and £22.5M for Bedford BC,

whereas Central Bedfordshire will receive £68.4M.

14. The Council's School Organisation Plan has now been subject to its annual review and the New School Places Programme has likewise been reviewed to reflect the changes in demographic forecasts from the previous year.
15. The outcome of this exercise has resulted in a provisional gross expenditure outturn for 2015/16 of £23.2M. There has also been a contribution from Leisure Services to the joint use facility for the Etonbury expansion
The DfE allocation of basic need for 2018/19 is not yet known and the net cost of the programme for that year is expected to reduce significantly.
16. The 2015/16 NSP programme includes expenditure on 19 separate capital projects, most of which span more than a single financial year. These projects include the provision of 1,425 new lower school places on new school sites, 975 new lower school places as expansions to existing schools on their current sites, 480 new middle school places on new school sites, 480 middle school places as expansions to existing schools and 700 new upper school places as expansions to existing schools.
17. All of the Council's New School Places are commissioned from Ofsted Good and Outstanding schools and academies. All of these new places have been provided local to the area of demographic demand, ensuring a sense of community belonging, supporting community use and promoting sustainable modes of transport. The addition of these new places as expansions to existing schools ensures their financial and therefore educational viability. All have been briefed and designed by Council officers and school leaders to provide teaching and non teaching school facilities that are recommended by DfE guidance and complement good and outstanding teaching.

Community Services

18. The Community Services Capital Programme in 2015/16 is made up of 81 schemes which include large groupings of projects that relate to Environmental services, Libraries, Leisure, Transport and Assets. The gross 2015-16 budget for Community Services now includes Assets and is £90.4M.
19. The provisional outturn is £54.4M, below budget by £35.7M. The major schemes that have impacted the outturn position are; A421 Junction 13, Luton & Dunstable Busway, Stratton Park Phase 5 Infrastructure, South Depot, Thorn Turn Waste Park, Depot and Salt Barn North, Dunstable Leisure and Libraries scheme and retiming of spend for Woodside Link.

The table below highlights the areas of spend.

Community Services Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross				Over / (Under) spend £k
	Gross Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	
	£k	£k	£k	£k	
Assets	8,857	5,698	(3,159)	2,991	(168)
Environmental Services	9,674	3,639	(6,035)	6,033	(2)
Libraries	148	136	(12)	0	(12)
Leisure	13,463	11,059	(2,404)	1,975	(429)
Transport	57,954	33,854	(24,100)	25,226	1,126
Total	90,096	54,387	(35,709)	36,225	516
% of Budget		60.4%			

Community Services Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net				Over / (Under) spend £k
	Net Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variance	Deferred Spend	
	£k	£k	£k	£k	
Assets	8,557	5,302	(3,255)	2,992	(263)
Environmental Services	9,580	3,555	(6,025)	6,033	8
Libraries	148	136	(12)	0	(12)
Leisure	10,980	8,863	(2,117)	380	(1,737)
Transport	30,431	11,590	(18,841)	18,604	(237)
Total	59,696	29,447	(30,249)	28,009	(2,240)
% of Budget		49.3%			

Highways and Transport

20. Activity completed includes:

- (a) **A421 M1 Junction 13 - Milton Keynes Magna Park** – The outline design works have been completed and there has been a design handover from Amey to Ringway Jacobs. The advance vegetation clearance has been completed and Amey will complete the business case works by 15 April. Bruton Knowles have progressed with the land negotiations on both parcels of land within CBC. Planning applications have been submitted for the three structures; Cranfield Road Overbridge, the bridleway overbridge and the canal box and work is underway to develop the Collaboration Agreement between CBC, MKC and SEMLEP.
- (b) **Highways Structural Maintenance and Lighting** - 59 carriageway schemes have been completed giving a total of 26.1km of roads being resurfaced, 26 footway schemes and 8.4km of paths have been resurfaced. The structural maintenance programme ensures that we maintain our £1.6 billion highway asset in a safe and useable condition. About 300 street lighting columns and 3,300 lanterns have been replaced. These lanterns have replaced the SOX orange lighting with highly efficient LED white lighting which gives an on going saving in our energy usage and carbon footprint.
- (c) **Integrated Transport** - 46 Integrated Transport schemes have been implemented. Including the improvements on the A600 at Deadmans

Cross; speed reduction measures, Shefford; Cycle Improvements, Heath and Reach; safety schemes at high Street Flitwick and Chiltern road, Dunstable.

- (d) **Woodside Link** – The Woodside Link scheme runs between a new M1 junction 11a and the local road network. Balfour Beatty were awarded the contract and commenced on site in May 2015. All the planned diversions have taken place including the brook allowing earthworks to progress. The Houghton Box Culvert, Houghton Brook Bridge and Parkside Bridge are constructed to deck level. The Sandringham Drive Retaining Wall is installed with capping beams being completed. The road drainage and substructure has been completed in readiness for blacktop operations to commence. It is anticipated that the road will open to traffic in Sept 2016.
- (e) **Digital Speed Cameras** – Poynters Road, Dunstable, and A505 schemes have been commissioned and have been live since October 2015. There have been over 3000 offences recorded to date.
- (f) **Southern Highways Depot (Thorn Turn) including Waste park** - During Financial year 2015/16 £639K was spent. This funded the creation of an access road, enabling plant and excavation vehicle access to the site, and the first 2 phases of the top soil strip. A safe crossing over the Ouzel brook has been created in line with internal drainage board requirements and the first phase of UKPN and BT works including the burying of overhead power cables. It also was used to fund the design and planning processes. Value Engineering has reduced potential build costs by over £4M, however the project remains over budget.
- (g) **Northern Highways Depot (Sandy)** – To date the activities on this project have been focused on the elements required to support a planning application, including the approval of a concept design, environmental impact assessment, noise and ecology surveys.
- (h) **Local Sustainable Transport Fund** - On the Smarter Routes to Employment Project, during 2015-16 we invested £0.8M of SEMLEP Local Growth Funding in the construction of new guided busway stops at Townsend Farm Road in Houghton Regis, Jeans Way in Dunstable and Chaul End in Luton. The two 'on-line' stops at Jeans Way and Chaul End are equipped with attractive modern shelters, real time information screens and CCTV surveillance. These stops become operational at the end of April 2016. We have also undertaken works at six locations where people join the busway, improving the experience for bus users, walkers and cyclists. These works included the provision of a surfaced link to connect the busway to the Sainsbury's superstore off Church Road in Dunstable, a longstanding ambition. The entrance to the busway from High Street North in Dunstable.
- (i) **East West Rail – Western Section** – Western Section - Network Rail (NR) have formed an Alliance Company, with consultants and contractors, to deliver the Western Section infrastructure and will be conducting 2nd round of public consultation in autumn 2016 with submission of a Transport and Works Act Order in early 2017 and aiming for opening in

2020. CBC is working closely with NR on the delivery of advance works to deliver rail and highway infrastructure. A study into transport infrastructure requirements at Ridgmont Station is being undertaken for CBC and will report in early May aiming to commence survey and legal works for Ridgmont Station in Q2 2016. Central Section - Network Rail have announced the preferred corridor option for the route which is Bedford - Sandy - Cambridge. Transport Strategy are working closely with Regeneration on ensuring the rail planning process is aligned with the Local Plan process and considering how to maximise the economic opportunities for Sandy if the route is delivered.

- (j) **Stratton Street Railway Bridge** - The temporary traffic management has been installed which includes some one way working in the town and utilising the Biggleswade Eastern Relief Road. The temporary statutory undertaker's bridge has been installed and the services diverted on to it. Despite high winds over Christmas enough work was completed, including re-routing the overhead lines, to allow the existing bridge deck to be cut up and removed during a number of subsequent weekend possessions. The pier heads have been repaired/strengthened and the new precast deck units installed. It is anticipated that the bridge will reopen to traffic in June 2016.
- (k) **A5-M1 Link Road** - Scheme is being delivered by the Highways Agency to address shortfalls in the trunk road network it will, with the Woodside Link also enable growth to the north of Houghton Regis and Dunstable. To allow the scheme to be brought forward a contribution of £45m has been made by the developers and £5M of growth area funds by Central Bedfordshire Council.
- (l) **Structures** - The following structures have been strengthened West Street Multi Storey Car Park; Leighton Buzzard, Redborne School Footbridge, Ampthill; Broughton Road Culvert, Salford a further 4 have been designed for future construction. Work has continued on the parapet strengthening programme and railway anti incursion measures.

21. Waste

Activity completed includes:

- (a) **Sundon Landfill Restoration** – The importation of soil in the final phases is complete, profiling is being finalised and an area of slippage has been repaired. Phases one and two (of six) have been planted and seeded and a chalk downland area to the south east has been established. Plans to remove the haul road have been agreed with the landowner and the works commence shortly.
- (b) **Thorn Turn Waste Park** – See Southern Highways depot paragraph 20 (f).
- (c) **Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Re-Development** – During financial year 2015/16, £1.7M has been spent. This has funded the complete redevelopment of Biggleswade HWRC and the first phase of works to the Ampthill site. Biggleswade HWRC was closed to the public in August 2015 and re-opened on time in February 2016. Overall project

goals have been met and the public feedback has been mainly positive.

22. Countryside and Access

Activity completed includes:

- (a) Swiss Garden** – Restoration works are now complete and the Garden is open to the public. A new equipment compound has been constructed during the winter. Further approved expenditure occurred on interpretation and developing the outreach programme.
- (b) Outdoor Access and Greenspace Improvement Projects** – achievements included Rushmere Park master planning. Surfacing improvements on Route 51 (National Cycle Route) and Holywell Lane Cranfield. Additional improvements have been made to the steel railings on Sandy Bridleway 8, new sculptures have been installed at Rushmere Country Park and surfacing improvements have taken place on the Dunstable Downs Multi User route.
- (c) Countryside Schemes** – A new barn was installed at Flitton Moor in October 2015. Rushmere Country Park - Tree Avenue health and safety works have been completed, this entailed works to remove diseased horse chestnuts and replace with small leaf limes. Replacement fencing and works at Thrift woodlands has been completed.
- (d) Houghton Hall Park Renaissance and Renewal Project-** Landscape restoration works commenced in February 2016 with tree and scrub clearance works as part of the Stage 2 delivery for the Parks for People project. All works car park works are completed, fencing upgrade/installation has been completed, minor outstanding monies to be spent on Gas Supply connection – can only happen once the Visitor Hub is built.
- (e) Rights of Way Transport works** -. There have been 25 new or replacement bridges and culverts. Around 2200 metres of surface improvements have been undertaken and over 200 new items of signage, gates and other furniture erected to improve access for all legal users of the public path network.

23. Leisure

Activity completed includes:

- (a) Flitwick Leisure Centre** – the new Leisure Centre was completed, with 25m 8 lane community swimming pool, teaching pool with movable floor, confidence water area, 2 squash courts, four court sports hall, climbing wall, crèche/party room, flexible multi use studio, 120 station gym, exercise studios, flexible rooms and catering. The project has a net overspend of £255K as a result of legal costs, stamp duty, and the purchase of gym equipment. This is mitigated by underspends on other leisure budgets.
- (b) Library and Leisure Centre - Dunstable** – project management consultants have been appointed and surveys carried out. The drawings

for option 7 are being developed and the team are preparing for public consultation.

- (c) Stock Condition** – Grove Theatre received a new lighting desk to enable better stage lighting and sound equipment. Saxon Leisure Centre received a new pool extract fan as part of the stock condition.

24. Libraries

Activity completed includes:

- (a) Libraries Remodelling** Undertaken a refurbishment at Flitwick Library. This included a new library layout and floor plan, increasing the size of the children's library, new computer benching and furniture for the public PCs, electrical and data work, new lighting and benching in meeting room. This work was completed in February 2016.
- (b)** Installed new IT benching with associated electrical and data works in a number of libraries including Leighton Buzzard, Potton and Ampthill, works completed August 2015 – April 2016.
- (c)** Made access/safety improvements at Potton Library including child security/safety gates to make the upstairs meeting/activity room usable for small children.
- (d)** Installed a new library counter and undertaken data and electrical works at Leighton Buzzard Library. This work is still ongoing. It was tendered as a much larger project led by Assets for air handling systems and other works at Leighton Buzzard Centre.
- (e)** Purchased £115K of new PCs for the libraries PC replacement project. These are now being prepared for a roll out to libraries April – June 2016.

Assets

25. The gross capital programme for Assets is £8.857M. The major Projects are 2015/16 Corporate Property Rolling Programme (£2M), Stratton Park Phase 5 Infrastructure (£2M), Stratton Park Phase 4 Access (£0.91M), Ivel Medical Centre including slippage (£0.975M), Enhancement work for disposals (£0.750M), Strategic Acquisitions (£0.5M), Health & Safety Rolling programme (£0.4M) and Energy Efficiencies (£0.388M).
26. The provisional outturn position for Assets is £5.698M. There is proposed deferred spend of £3M. The outturn position is below budget due to a number of schemes. Due to the delay in the infrastructure project and planning issues at Stratton Park it is expected that £2.368M of costs to be incurred in future financial years and the 2015/16 budget will be proposed to be slipped into 2016/17 to cover this. There is slippage of £0.200M for the acquisition of strategic sites/farmland and the remaining budget of £0.299M is declared as an underspend. The Thorn Turn development project has slippage of £0.094M. A further £0.067M has been proposed to

be deferred for the Technology Forge helpdesk system to allow assessment of the additional modules. Provisional outturn is below budget by £0.089M for the Ivel Medical Centre due to higher than budgeted funding. On the Corporate rolling programme there is a slippage of £0.166M mainly for works at Leighton Buzzard library and Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre.

Regeneration & Business Support

27. The budget for Regeneration is £3.54M the provisional outturn position is £0.3M gross below budget and £0.7M net below budget (funded by CBC) due to re-phasing of the Local Broadband Infrastructure project and deferred spend on the Market Towns Programme, Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration and Cranfield Technology Park Acceleration.

The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Regeneration & Business Support Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross			Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	Gross Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variance		
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Market Towns Programme	435	17	(418)	418	0
Development site promotion	75	0	(75)	75	0
Flood defence strategy schemes	195	14	(181)	0	(181)
Local Broadband Infrastructure	1,899	3,141	1,242	(24)	1,218
Land Drainage Work (Non Highways)	60	3	(57)	20	(37)
Flitwick Land Purchase Further land assembly for the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.	81	9	(72)	81	9
Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2	489	40	(449)	449	0
Historic Building Grant Aid Scheme	8	0	(8)	8	0
Cranfield Technology Park Acceleration	298	0	(298)	100	(198)
Rolling Social & Community Infrastructure Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,540	3,225	(315)	1,127	812
% of Budget		91.1%			

Regeneration & Business Support Full Year Net Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Net Provisional			Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	Net Budget	Outturn	Variance		
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Market Towns Programme	435	17	(418)	418	0
Development site promotion	75	0	(75)	75	0
Flood defence strategy schemes	195	14	(181)	0	(181)
Local Broadband Infrastructure	0	522	522	(24)	498
Land Drainage Work (Non Highways)	60	3	(57)	0	(57)
Flitwick Land Purchase Further land assembly for the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.	81	0	(81)	81	0
Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2	489	40	(449)	449	0
Historic Building Grant Aid Scheme	8	0	(8)	8	0
Cranfield Technology Park Acceleration	(2)	0	2	0	2
Rolling Social & Community Infrastructure Fund	0	0	0	1	1
Total	1,341	597	(744)	1,008	264
% of Budget		44.5%			

Broadband

28. The Superfast Broadband Project has delivered above target for the 2015/16 Year which has resulted in an overspend of £498K. Central Bedfordshire Council is the accountable body for the Central Superfast Project, covering Bedford and Milton Keynes with Luton joining in May 2015. In total the project has enabled 37,404 premises to receive superfast broadband (speeds greater than 24 Megabits Per Second) with 158 cabinets now live. In Central Bedfordshire 15,585 premises are able to receive superfast broadband services, exceeding the 15,500 premises originally contracted. Coverage in Central Bedfordshire now stands at 90%, and has hit the Councils Adopted Local Broadband Plan target. As part of the Council's obligation to ensure all premises have access to broadband infrastructure capable of delivering at least a basic service of 2 megabits per second, a Subsidised Satellite Broadband service was launched in December 2015. This will run until December 2017. In May 2015 a further contract was signed with BT to extend coverage to a further 16,782 premises with 8,247 of those in Central Bedfordshire (taking coverage to 96.5%).
29. In 2015/16 the two BT contracts were merged together to accelerate delivery and deliver efficiencies. As a result the project delivery dates have moved forward by up to 9 months and savings will be reinvested to extend coverage further. Further funding of £1.74M, has been secured from SEMLEP, this will be matched by BDUK.

Market Towns Programme

30. In 2015/16 Central Bedfordshire Council launched the exciting £4M Market Town Regeneration Fund (MTRF). The objective of the MTRF is to enhance out market towns vibrancy and promote their wider role in shaping and supporting economic growth, particularly supporting those areas facing pressures of population growth. The programme will begin delivery in 2016/17.

Improvement & Corporate Services

31. The gross and net budget for ICS is £6.2M. The provisional outturn position is £4.5M, below budget by £1.7M.

The table below highlights the areas of spend :

Improvement & Corporate Services Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross			Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	Gross/Net Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variance		
	£k	£k	£k		
Information Assets	5,643	4,439	(1,204)	1,023	(181)
Other	515	12	(503)	488	(15)
Total	6,158	4,451	(1,707)	1,511	(196)
% of Budget		72.3%			

(Note gross and Net are the same as all internally funded)

Information Technology

32. The net capital programme for IT is £5.643M. There are a number of major projects which include Customer First Phase 2: Care Act implementation (£1.067M), 2015/16 ICT Strategic Investment (£1.0M), Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) Rollout (£0.5M), Applications Architecture Phase 3 (£0.5M), Public Services Network (PSN) Phase 3 (£0.5M) & IT Infrastructure Rolling Programme 2015/16 (£0.5M). There are other smaller projects totalling £1.576M.
33. The provisional outturn position for IT is £4.439M. There is proposed deferred budget of £1.023M across a number of schemes and an underspend of £0.181M. This is due to the Website Development project, originally expected to be capital spend, being reclassified as revenue following a detailed review.

34. Other ICS Projects

The gross capital budget for Other Improvement & Corporate Services projects is £0.515M. The major project is Office Rationalisation (£0.5M) with a number of smaller projects totalling £15K. The provisional outturn position is £0.012M. There is also £0.488M currently expected to be deferred into 2016/17. This relates to the office rationalisation activities which is now expected to incur spend up to the end of August 2016 to align with the quadrants priorities and the emerging accommodation strategy.

Corporate Resources

35. There is one scheme within Corporate Resources with a budget of £45K, Civica Revenue Module. This has been identified as an underspend due to the planned upgrade to the Civica system being fulfilled by a revenue solution.

Corporate Resources Full Year Gross Budget and Forecast					
Scheme Categories	Gross			Deferred Spend	Over / (Under) spend
	Gross/Net Budget	Provisional Outturn	Variance		
	£k	£k	£k		
Civica Revenue Module	45	0	(45)	0	(45)
Total	45	0	(45)	0	(45)

% of Budget **0.0%**
(Note gross and Net are the same as all internally funded)

Capital Receipts

36. The overall budget for Capital receipts is £13.101M. The actual outturn is £1.981M and a further £2.350M for land that has been transferred to the HRA. The receipts for Stratton Business Park are expected to be received in future years. It is anticipated that the £4.0M from Bedford Borough for Bell Farm and County Hall as part of the disaggregation agreement, and the £1.0M for Village Farm Sutton, will be received in 16/17 financial year. In March we received the £0.400M for Revelstoke and a further £1.298M from the successful auction sales.